

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (**Cancelled**)

12.(New) Device for evacuating people from a building (2), comprising a part which will be placed into a functional position from a non-functional position, which in the functional position forms a rescue channel (29) leading from an upper floor of a building to ground level (20), wherein

the part forming the rescue channel (29) is embodied as a tube (7) which is folded together when in the non-functional position, said tube extending in an essentially vertical manner with respect to the building wall (22), whereby braking means are provided for the safe conveyance of people through the rescue channel (29) to ground level (20).

13.(New) Device according to claim 12, wherein the tube (7) is equipped with a number of transversal rings (10) distributed over its length at a distance from each other, which are each equipped with at least one opening (15) for the passage of a tensioning rope (16) which determines the arrangement of the tube (7) in the functional position.

14.(New) Device according to claim 13, wherein the tube (7) equipped with the transversal rings (10) is designed so that it can be folded together or extended in the manner of a concertina.

15.(New) Device according to claim 13, wherein each transversal ring (10) is assigned an annular air cushion (30) which is inflatable in the manner of an airbag when the tube (7) is in the functional position, whereby the air cushions (30) assigned to the transversal rings (10) form the braking means for the safe conveyance of people through the rescue channel (29).

16.(New) Device according to claim 12, wherein the tube (7), when folded in the non-functional position, is disposed in an enclosure (3) on the upper floor on a plateau (4) which can be extended from the building, whereby the tube can unfold automatically when the plateau (4) is extended, through a base opening (5) of the latter, towards the ground (20).

17.(New) Device according to claim 16, wherein the tube (7) is equipped with a number of transversal rings (10) distributed over its length at a distance from each other, which are each equipped with at least one opening (15) for the passage of a tensioning rope (16) which determines the arrangement of the tube (7) in the functional position,

wherein in the functional position with the plateau (4) extended, the tensioning rope (16) is stretched between two fixed points (17, 18) assigned firstly to the upper floor and secondly to ground level (20), whereby when the plateau (4) is being extended, said rope can be ripped out of a groove (21) provided in the building wall (22) and brought into an approximately vertical position.

18.(New) Device according to claim 16, wherein the tube (7) is connected at one end with an entrance part (13) displaying an entry opening (12), whereby when the plateau (4) is extended, the entrance part (13) can be brought into a position in which the entry opening (12) is disposed coaxially with respect to the ground opening (5) and the entrance part (13) is resting on the plateau (4).

19.(New) Device according to claim 12, wherein the functional position an essentially arched exit part (31) is attached to the lower end of the tube (7).

20.(New) Device according to claim 16, wherein the plateau (4) forms part of a container which can be extended from the building (2), in which container the entire device is accommodated in the non-functional position.

21.(New) Device according to claim 12, wherein the tube (7) is made from flame-resistant material.

22.(New) Device according to claim 12, wherein the tube (7) is made from transparent material, or that it displays windows.